

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-08 OMB-01
TRSE-00 OES-09 ACDA-12 ICA-11 NEAE-00 /101 W
-----035792 241208Z /43

P R 241012Z JUL 78
FM AMAMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8310
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7216

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, MUNC, PK, US, FR
SUBJECT: MUFTI SAYS HE WANTS THE PLANT

REF: ISLAMABAD 7193

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: IN A PRESS STATEMENT JULY 22, PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE (PNA) PRESIDENT MUFTI MAHMOOD WARNED THE GOVERNMENT "NOT SUCCUMB TO FOREIGN PRESSURE" TO CANCEL THE REPROCESSING DEAL WITH FRANCE. MUFTI SAID THAT THE GOP AND THE GOF SHOULD "STRICTLY ABIDE BY THEIR MUTUAL AGREEMENT" AND THEY "SHOULD NEVER ALLOW A THIRD PARTY" TO GET IN THE WAY.

2. MUFTI TICKED OFF THE SEVERAL REASONS HE THOUGHT THE PLANT IS A "MUST" FOR PAKISTAN:

--HE SAID THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WANT TO DEPRIVE THE UNDERDEVELOPED WORLD OF ATOMIC POWER TO "EXTEND THEIR SUPERIORITY AND HEGEMONY";

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--HE NOTED THAT PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN "WOULD NEVER ACCEPT THE INTERFERENCE OF A THIRD COUNTRY," AND THAT, IF PAKISTAN WAS AN "ATOMIC POWER, NO COUNTRY COULD DARE" PUT PRESSURE ON IT;

--MUFTI ALSO SAID THAT THERE WERE SOUND ISLAMIC REASONS FOR ACQUIRING THE PLANT. "GOD ALMIGHT," HE PROCLAIMED,

HAD ORDERED HIS FOLLOWERS TO "DEVELOP AND KEEP READY THEIR STRENGTH TO RESIST THE POWER OF THE KUFFAR. (UNBELIEVERS)." "WHEN MUSLIM NATIONS HAD ATOMIC POWER," HE CONCLUDED, THEY WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO "INFLUENCE WORLD ISSUES." END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: COMMENT: THIS IS THE STRONGEST STATEMENT ON THE REPROCESSING ISSUE FROM A PNA LUMINARY IN SOME TIME AND UNDERLINED MUFTI'S CLEAR INTENTION TO GET NUCLEAR WEAPONS. MUFTI, FACING NEW NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMLA) GENERAL ZIA ON THE PROSPECT OF JOINING THE GOVERNMENT, MAY WANT TO SHOW ZIA THAT THE PNA IS CAPABLE OF MORE THAN ITS OFT-DISPLAYED PAROCHIAL VIEWPOINT, THUS EASING ZIA'S MIND ABOUT PNA PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNCILS OF STATE. ON THE OTHER HAND, MUFTI MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO PUT ZIA ON NOTICE THAT IF KEPT OUT OF GOVERNMENT BY THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION, THE PNA IS AS CAPABLE AS THE PAKISTAN PEOPLES PARTY OF PLAYING POLITICS WITH REPROCESSING. END COMMENT, END CONFIDENTIAL. HUMMEL

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